

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 10 were allowed over the prior art. Claims 6-8, 12 and 23 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter.

The pending application contains three independent claims: 1, 9 and 19. Independent claim 1 now contains the limitation of claim 6. Thus, claim 1 should now be allowed. Independent claim 9 has already been allowed. Claim 19 now contains the limitation of claim 23. Thus, claim 19 should now be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 13-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beebe et al (U.S. Patent 6,488,872 B1).

Claims 19, 24, 25, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beebe et al (U.S. Patent 6,488,872 B1) as applied to claims 1-4, 13-15, and 17 above, and further in view of Schneider et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0083401 A1).

These rejections are moot in light of this Amendment.

Please note that for the sake of consistency of the term "micro-fluidic channel" in all of the claims, the term "the channel" has been amended to "the micro-fluidic channel" at all occurrences in the claims. In claim 9, the phrase "walls of the micro-fluidic channel" has been changed to "a wall of the micro-fluidic channel" to be consistent with the second occurrence of this phrase in the claim, which recites "the wall of the micro-fluidic channel." Similarly, even though canceled claim 6 recited "walls," claim 1 recites the term "a wall" in the phrase "forming a coating attached to a wall of the micro-fluidic channel." The term "a" in the phrase "a wall of the micro-fluidic channel" means "one or more" in the pending claims, which are open-ended claims containing

the transitional phrase "comprising" as explained by the Federal Circuit in *KCJ Corp. v. Kinetic Concepts, Inc.*, 223 F.3d 1351, 1356 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

New claims 35 and 36 depend from allowable claims 1 and 19, respectively. New claims 35 and 36 are supported by the disclosure in paragraph [0036] of the specification that states that "[a] first coating 303 is adjacent to and abuts the first vertical sidewall 202 of the outlet channel. Similarly, a second coating 307 is adjacent to and abuts the second vertical sidewall 264 of the outlet channel." The two new claims, 35 and 36, have been added in lieu of an equal number of claims, 6 and 23, now having been canceled after the pending final Action. New claims 35 and 36 do not raise any new issues and should be entered and allowed as they depend from allowed claims.

In view of the above Amendment, the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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